

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

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R 301535Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8144

INFO AMEMBASSY ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

ANCOMSUL LENINGRAD 7471

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY, UR

SUBJ: "OBSERVER" ON ANTI-LIBYAN CAMPAIGN IN EGYPT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRVADA AUGUST 30 COMMENTARY "ON EVENTS AROUND LIBYA" BY AUTHORITATIVE "OBSERVER" IS UNUSUALLY SHORT AND FLACCID (FOR "OBSERVER"); SITUATES EGYPTIAN ATTACKS ON LIBYA IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL IMPERIALIST PLAN TO BREAK ARAB UNITY WITHOUT OFFERING SLIGHTEST DESCRIPTION OF WHAT ATTACKS ARE ABOUT; AND APPEARS DESIGNED TO SHOW THE FLAG FOR LIBYA, BUT NOTHING MORE. END SUMMARY.

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2. ASSUMING FBIS WILL CARRY FULL TEXT, WE ARE STRUCK BY

FOLLOWING POINTS:

--TONE IS URGENT: SITUATION ATTRACTS ATTENTION

"BECAUSE THREAT OF A NEW MILITARY CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION ARISES", WITH CONSEQUENT DANGER FOR "MAINTENANCE OF GENERAL PEACE".

--URGENCY IS UNFOCUSED: THE SITUATION WHICH THEREATENS PEACE CONSISTS ENTIRELY, IF OBSERVER IS TO BE BELIEVED, OF UNDEFINED EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACKS ON LIBYA.

--REASON IS CLEAR, ACCORDING TO OBSERVER, BUT PERFECTLY GENERAL: LIBYA HAS STOOD UP FOR ARAB UNITY, UNLIKE "THOSE ARAB COUNTRIES WHICH SEEK TO ACHIEVE SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL THROUGH U.S. MEDIATION", AND CONSEQUENTLY THESE "EVENTS" ARE "PART OF THE GENERAL PLAN OF THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION" TO STRIKE A NEW BLOW AT ARAB UNITY.

--"THOSE WHO WANT NORMALIZATION" ARE WORRIED, BUT HELPLESS: CONCLUSION CALLS FOR "HELP AND SUPPORT" FOR LIBYANS TO PREVENT IMPERIALISM AND REACTIONARIES FROM STRIKING THE NEW BLOW, BUT WITHOUT SPECIFICITY.

3. SOVIET MEDIA REPORTING ON LIBYA IN RECENT WEEKS AND MONTHS HAS BEEN SO SPARSE AND ELIPTICAL THAT EVEN THOSE USED TO READING BETWEEN THE LINES WILL FIND IT HARD TO IMAGINE WHAT HAS CAUSED THE EGYPTIANS TO ATTACK THE LIBYANS AND "OBSERVER" TO DEFEND THEM. IN TIME OF CRUNCH, JUST AS AFTER FAILURE OF ANTI-NUMAYRIA COUP IN SUDAN, SOVIETS HAVE STEPPED IN ON THE RECORD AT QADHAFI'S SIDE, BUT THIS TIME WITHOUT DISPLAYING THE RECORD ITSELF. STOESEL

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